

food for children, not pay checks for bureaucrats. Democrats seem more concerned about feeding bureaucrats than feeding children.

Mr. Speaker, the debate should not involve using scare tactics to defend the status quo. Our children are more important than that.

□ 1015

COLOR-BLIND JUSTICE

(Mr. FLAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I am overjoyed at all of the discussions that we are having about a color-blind society. A color-blind society starts with color-blind justice.

Yesterday, the U.S. Commission on Sentences released a study. That study said that crack sentences put more blacks in prison. It must be understood that the disparity in the law that allows for a person with 5 grams of crack cocaine to serve a term of 5 years versus a person who serves 5 years who has 10,000 grams of powder cocaine is an injustice. It is unfair.

I would call on my Republican colleagues and others in the Democratic Party to join with me. Let us work toward a color-blind society, but let us start with the reality that color-blind justice must be a part of what makes this process workable.

When we get to that point, I think we can all agree that we are moving toward the kind of society that was intended from the beginning. This American democracy is an inclusive one.

FEDERAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, finally, the truth has prevailed. For the past week, House Republicans have been accused of not caring for children and for future American generations. Opponents believe that we are going to dismantle the Federal School Lunch Program. That is simply not true.

We realize that children are better able to learn when fed a nutritious meal on a regular basis. Under our proposal, the program will grow by 4.5 percent, and in the current budget year we will spend \$4.7 billion, yet another increase for children.

Since January, we have been busy passing a balanced budget amendment, a line-item veto, and even a new and improved crime package for the benefit of our children. In the coming weeks, we will work on a welfare reform package, a commonsense legal reform measure, and finish streamlining the Federal regulatory maze.

We will continue to create a brighter future for our country's most important resource—our children.

NO FREE LUNCH

(Mr. GUTIERREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans have said "no more free lunches." But, to whom have they said this? To themselves or to the Washington special interests? No. To well-paid lobbyists or well-connected contractors? No.

Instead, they have said "no more free lunch"—no lunch at all—to the millions of children who depend on the Federal Government's School Lunch Program. Mr. Speaker, we need congressional reform, like a gift ban, because we can only represent our constituents if we share the experiences that they go through everyday. And this latest cruel cut shows that we have very little in common with our youngest, most vulnerable constituents.

Yes, it is business as usual in Washington, even though outside the beltway, belts will be worn a little tighter than usual.

Members of Congress and lobbyists can keep their three-martini lunches, while our poorest children can't even get three square meals.

So, I say to the Republicans, you defend your elegant lunches with lobbyists who make millions, and we Democrats are going to defend the modest lunches that feed millions of children.

THE EFFECT OF THE DEFICIT ON OUR CHILDREN

(Mr. MCINNIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, after hearing some of the comments earlier this morning, let me tell Members that the children that are in the direct line of fire are in the direct line of fire because they have got something called the Federal deficit which is about to explode in their lap.

If we want to help the children of the future, we better do something about this deficit and we better be prepared to address the bureaucracy on the food School Lunch Program.

Do not let the Democrats on the fringe left parade around and say we are taking food out of the children of this country. We are not doing that.

We are just saying we have got to change the status quo. We need to introduce something called business management 101 to operate that program.

That program is going to be run much efficiently under Republican control and a lot more kids are going to get fed under Republican control than the Democrats ever dreamed.

In addition to all that, we are going to get that next generation out of the Federal deficit like the Democrats want to end it.

WELFARE ISN'T A LUXURY

(Ms. FURSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, I am appalled at the mean spirit of my Republican colleagues. I rise today to call on them to get over their stereotypes of welfare. They should listen to experts like Joe Livingston from southwest Portland:

As a medical student at Oregon Health Sciences University, I see poverty all of the time, and it reminds me of my own experiences growing up. I was the child of a teenage parent. There were times in our lives when my mother could not make ends meet and we went on welfare.

I find it terrifying that many in Congress feel it is good for the country to decide that if young women have children outside of marriage they should be abandoned. Teenage mothers do not need our government to punish them; they need help. Their young children do not need Congress to judge them as bastards; they need food and shelter.

THE TRUTH ABOUT REPUBLICANS AND CHILDREN

(Mrs. CUBIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I am standing here today, and I am going to come back and I am going to stand here every day until we get this bill passed or until they start telling the truth.

The truth is, if Members wanted to know who cares about feeding children in America, the Republicans care.

I am a mother. I have served school lunches myself. I have cooked the food. I have taken the food there to serve it. There is no one in Washington who wants to take care of the school children in Wyoming and across the country more than I do and more than my colleagues do.

The truth of the matter is, my colleagues, that we are spending more money for school lunches. We are allowing the people who really care about the people who knows what their needs are in the States to make the decisions that affect those children.

We are allowing families to take over feeding their children again. The School Lunch Program does not just feed poor children. It feeds people's children who do not need money in order to supplement the cost. That is wrong.

We need to take care of the people who need it, and that is best decided at the States.

THE EFFECT OF REPUBLICAN CUTS ON THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

(Mr. MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman in the well